

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 AGR-05

LAB-01 SWF-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-04 /092 W

----- 015172

R 060930Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 216

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 1442

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PK

SUBJECT: COMING WATER AND POWER CRISIS

REF: LAHORE 1349; B) LAHORE MEMCON DTD OCTOBER 21;

C) LAHORE 1418

1. WATER AND POWER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (WAPDA)
HEADQUARTERS AT LAHORE HAS BELATEDLY BEGUN PROCESS
OF EDUCATING PUBLIC ABOUT FORTHCOMING WATER AND POWER SHORTAGES
THIS WINTER. ON NOV 5, VERY BRIEF ITEM APPEARED ON FRONT
PAGE OF GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES AND OTHER LAHORE
NEWSPAPERS WARNING READERS OF SERIOUS IMPENDING POWER
SHORTAGES. THIS WAS FOLLOWED WITH PRESS CONFERENCE BY
SENIOR WAPDA OFFICIAL NOV 5 WHICH WAS COVERED IN MORE LENGTHY
FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN ALL PAPERS NOV 6. IF ANYTHING, WAPDA
OFFICIAL'S STATEMENTS TO PRESS WERE EVEN MORE GLOOMY
THAN THOSE OF UN ADVISOR PRAZAK QUOTED REFS A AND B.

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2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, WAPDA GENERAL MANAGER FOR POWER DISTRIBUTION S. AZIZ UL-HAMID TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT WAPDA WOULD HAVE TO SUBSTANTIALLY CURTAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLY TO ALL CONSUMERS BECAUSE OF PROJECTED 50 PERCENT DECREASE IN POWER GENERATION BY NORTHERN GRID SYSTEM WHICH FEEDS PUNJAB AND NWFP. SPECIFICALLY, HAMID SAID MANGLA DAM POWER STATION GENERATING CAPACITY WOULD BE REDUCED BY 50 PERCENT, WATER DISCHARGE FROM MANGLA RESERVOIR WOULD FALL FROM 18,000 TO 11,000 CUSECS BY DEC 11, AND THAT EFFECTIVE DECREASE IN POWER GENERATION WOULD BE 100-250 MW FROM DEC 11 TO MARCH 31, 1975.

3. GENERAL MANAGER APPEALED TO PUBLIC TO VOLUNTARILY REDUCE ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION, BUT WARNED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD ENFORCE CONSERVATION MEASURES UNDER ELECTRICITY CONTROL ACT. HE ASKED PUBLIC TO AVOID USE OF ELECTRIC HOUSEHOLD HEATERS AND UNNECESSARY LIGHTS. HE ASKED COMMERCIAL CONSUMERS TO VOLUNTARILY REDUCE LIGHTING LOAD BY 50 PERCENT AND TO BE PREPARED TO SWITCH OFF ELECTRICITY DURING PEAK LOAD HOURS (5-9 PM), EVEN IF IT INVOLVED CLOSING COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

4. HAMID ASSERTED WAPDA WOULD ATTEMPT TO INSURE ADEQUATE AND UNINTERRUPTED ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO CONSUMERS IMPORTANT TO ECONOMIC SECTOR, INCLUDING TUBEWELLS, CONTINUOUS-PROCESS INDUSTRIES, HOSPITALS, CLINICS, CHEMISTS SHOPS, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, CINEMA HOUSES AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL END USERS. HOWEVER, HE REQUESTED INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO LOAD-STAGGERING PROGRAM TO BE CHALKED OUT BY WAPDA, TO OBSERVE WEEKLY HOLIDAYS ON DIFFERENT DAYS OF WEEK, AND TO BE PREPARED TO CLOSE FACTORIES TWO DAYS EACH WEEK IF NECESSARY. HE SAID CONTINUOUS-PROCESS INDUSTRIES WOULD BE ASKED TO REDUCE THEIR LOADS BY 20 PERCENT DURING PEAK HOURS AND MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO OBSERVE FOUR CONSECUTIVE HOLIDAYS EACH MONTH. MOREOVER, INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS THAT HAD LOADS OF OVER 70KW WOULD HAVE OPTION OF DISCONNECTING FOR MINIMUM PERIOD OF THIRTY DAYS, DURING WHICH TIME CONSUMERS WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY BASIC FIXED ELECTRICITY CHARGES. HAMID DECLARED THAT WAPDA WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN REQUESTS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECORATIVE LIGHTING AT MARRIAGES AND OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, AND SAID ONLY 50 PERCENT OF STREET LIGHTS WOULD BE SWITCHED ON.

5. COMMENT: WHAT WAPDA OFFICIAL DID NOT ADDRESS WAS EFFECT HIS ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL HAVE ON INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE IN PUNJAB. ON INDUSTRIAL SIDE, CERTAIN USERS SUCH AS TEXTILE MILL OWNERS WILL PROBABLY REQUEST

PERMISSION TO CLOSE THEIR FACTORIES FOR DURATION IN
EFFORT TO AVOID FURTHER LOSSES DURING CURRENT COTTON
AND COTTON TEXTILE PRICE CRISIS. DESPITE WAPDA'S NEEDS,
IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT GOP WILL GRANT INDUSTRIALISTS SUCH
PERMISSION. ON OTHER HAND, ANNOUNCEMENT WILL PROBABLY FURTHER
SLOW WHEAT PLANTING, WHICH SHOULD BE WELL UNDER WAY, BUT
WHICH IS MOVING MUCH MORE SLOWLY THAN EXPECTED. THIS IS
DUE PRIMARILY TO SHORTAGE OF WATER IN CANAL IRRIGATED
AREAS AND TO SHORTAGES OF ELECTRICITY IN TUBEWELL IRRIGATED
AREAS, BUT PRICE OF FERTILIZER AND SEEDS, PLUS PROJECTED
PROCUREMENT PRICE FOR WHEAT, ALL HAVE HAD ROLE TO PLAY
IN MAKING FARMERS RELUCTANT. GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED FARMERS
TO INSTALL MORE TUBEWELLS (REF C), BUT HAS LEFT UNANSWERED
QUESTION OF HOW TO POWER TUBEWELL PUMPS.
GRIFFIN

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Message Attributes

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